Claims

1. In a system for providing wireless data communication using a first protocol, said system having access points for conducting wireless data communications with mobile units using said first protocol, a method for conducting out of band management communications with an access point comprising providing said access point with a radio module operating according to a second wireless data communications protocol, and conducting management communications with said access point using said second wireless data communications protocol

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first protocol is 802.11 Protocol.

3. A method according to claim 2 wherein said second wireless data communications protocol is Bluetooth.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said conducting management communications includes authenticating said communications.

5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said second wireless data communications protocol is Bluetooth.

6. A method according to claim 4 wherein said conducting management communications includes associating said radio module as a slave unit.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein said conducting management communications includes authenticating said communications.

8. An access point for use in a wireless data communication system, comprising:

a first interface for conducting data communications with one or more computers

a first radio module using a first protocol for transmitting wireless data messages received at said first interface and for receiving and relaying data messages via said first interface;

at least one processor connected to said first interface and said radio module for controlling said access point, said processor having a port; and

a second radio module operating using a second wireless data communications protocol, different from said first protocol, for providing wireless data communications with said processor via said port.

9. An access point as specified in claim 8, wherein said second radio module is arranged to operate as a slave module using a master slave protocol.

10. An access point as specified in claim 8, wherein said second radio module is arranged to operate as a slave module using the Bluetooth protocol.

11. An access point as specified in claim 8 wherein aid processor is further arranged to authenticate communications via said second radio module.